



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

November 9, 2001

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APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR MERIT SYSTEM PROTECTION BOARD

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO NOVEMBER 19, 2001

The Montgomery County Council is accepting applications from qualified voters of the County for appointment to a three-year term on the Merit System Protection Board. The term of Brenson Long will expire in December 2001. Mr. Long has indicated that he will apply for reappointment.

The County Merit System Protection Board's mission is to oversee the Merit System for the protection of employee's and applicant's rights guaranteed under the Merit System. There are two methods in which the Board processes appeals: 1) a written decision issued after a review and discussion of a written record; 2) a written decision issued after a pre-hearing conference and a formal hearing in cases involving a suspension, demotion or dismissal. The Board, on a periodic basis, conducts special studies, audits or inquiries of the administration of the merit and retirement pay systems and, in this effort, may compel the attendance of witnesses. Written reports of its findings and recommendations are filed with the County Executive and the County Council. The Board also provides comments on any proposed changes in the Merit System law or regulations.

The Board normally meets for approximately four hours in the evening once every two weeks. In addition, the Board holds hearings during the day, which can take the full day or be scheduled for the evening. Additional time is also required for preparatory work. Members of this Board receive \$6,500, which is adjusted annually to reflect 50% of the percentage change in the Washington Area Consumer Price Index.

The appointment is for three years. Section 403 of the County Charter states in part "...No member shall hold political office or participate in any campaign for any political or public office during the member's term of office."

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By law, not more than two of the three members of the Merit System Protection Board may be of the same political party. Present Board members are Harold Kessler (Democrat), Brenson E. Long (Democrat), and Robert Hamilton (Republican). Accordingly, the appointee may be either a Democrat, Republican, Reform or not affiliated.

Individuals interested in serving on the Merit System Protection Board should submit a letter, including a resume, expressing their interest in being considered for appointment to the Board to Council President Blair G. Ewing, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. Due to the Veteran's Day Holiday, the deadline has been extended and applications must be received in the Council office by 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 19, 2001.

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